

I am very concerned that the electric power industry's proposal to deploy BPL poses a serious threat of harmful interference to both government and private citizen radio services. As a licensed Amateur Radio operator, I have seen demonstrated convincingly the large increase in HF and VHF spectrum ambient noise level from power line radiation of BPL transmissions. By essentially blanketing the HF and low VHF spectrum with noise, BPL transmissions will undermine my ability to receive all but the strongest signals.

I do not believe that the public interest supports allowing the power industry to cause harmful interference to FCC-licensed services such as Amateur Radio. In the event of a national emergency, hams will be called upon to support emergency telecommunications when commercial service fails or is overloaded, just as it has done untold times before. The Commission, the Congress and the Administration are aware of how valuable the Amateur Service is in times of national emergencies. Weak signal reception is what hams are trained to deal with, and if they cannot receive such signals because of BPL noise, then they cannot be nearly as effective in emergency situations. Moreover, it is virtually certain that proper and legal transmissions from my station and thousands of other Amateur Radio stations is likely to wreak havoc on the BPL service, which in turn will result in massive, highly aggressive levels of complaints to the Commission from many sources.

I support the comments filed in this proceeding by the ARRL, and I urge the Commission either to terminate this proceeding now or to call upon representatives of interested parties to identify and adopt satisfactory technical solutions to resolve these interference issues as a condition of BPL deployment.

Respectfully,

Peter Alterman, Ph.D.